

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 VO-03 SCA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5940

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: CVIS, UR

SUBJECT: VISAS: MFA NOTE RE COMVIS PROCEDURES

REF: A. STATE 2662 B. STATE 260601 C. STATE 178220

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM MFA COMPLAINING ABOUT U.S. COMMERCIAL VISITOR VISA PROCEDURES (THEN COMVIS, NOW BUSVIS) INAUGURATED IN AUGUST (REF C). NOTE ALSO REFERS TO RELATED NIV CLASSIFICATION QUESTION (REF B). EMBASSY WILL COMMENT BY SEPTEL. PARTIAL TRANSLATION OF NOTE FOLLOWS:

2. MFA CALLS EMBASSY'S ATTENTION TO FACT THAT NEW COMMERCIAL VISITOR VISA PROCEDURE QUOTE COMPLICATES APPRECIABLY THE PROCESS OF FILING REQUESTS FOR SUCH TRIPS. THIS CAN CREATE ONLY ADDITIONAL OBSTACLES IN EXPANDING MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS COOPERATION BETWEEN THE USSR AND USA IN THE TRADE AND ECONOMICS AREAS.

3. THE SOVIET SIDE, AS IS KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY, TO DATE HAS NOT INTRODUCED ANY REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS APPLYING FOR VISAS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO MAKE BUSINESS VISITS FROM THE USA TO THE USSR.

4. THE COMPLICATED PROCEDURES OF RECEIVING VISAS FOR THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CATEGORY OF SOVIET CITIZENS DOES NOT AGREE ALSO WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPEATED READINESS EXPRESSED BY THE EMBASSY TO TAKE MEASURES IN

SIMPLIFYING VISA PROCEDURES.

5. IN LIGHT OF THE CONTINUING FURTHER EXPANSION OF CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES IT COULD BE EXPECTED THAT THE AMERICAN SIDE WOULD FOLLOW THIS PATH, AND IN CONSULAR MATTERS AT LEAST PRESERVE THE FORMER SYSTEM OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO SOVIET CITIZENS PROCEEDING TO THE UNITED STATES ON BUSINESS MATTERS.

6. THE MINISTRY HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THE EMBASSY'S NOTIFICATION REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF DIPLOMATIC "A" VISAS TO MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS OF THE USSR, PROCEEDING TO THE US ON COMMERCIAL VISITS. HOWEVER, THE NOTIFICATION THAT THIS CONDITION DOES NOT APPLY TO MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS OF THE SOVIET REPUBLICS PROCEEDING TO THE US FOR THE SAME PURPOSE AROUSES CONCERN.

7. IN THE MINISTRY'S OPINION, MANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND COMPLICATIONS WOULD BE REMOVED IF THE EMBASSY WOULD ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY ISSUE DIPLOMATIC "A" VISAS TO ALL BEARERS OF SOVIET DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS REGARDLESS OF THE PURPOSE OF THEIR TRIPS TO THE UNITED STATES. END QUOTE.  
STOESSEL

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